

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 27, 2015

During National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month, we recognize that teen pregnancy touches the lives of Americans in all corners of our country. Although teen birth rates have reached historic lows, too many young people still face enormous challenges as a result of becoming pregnant. This is a serious issue that can lead to increased health risks for both parent and child, and can negatively affect behavioral, health, and economic outcomes for teens and their kids.

As a country, we must continue to invest in evidence-based programs that reduce adolescent pregnancy. Addressing disparities in teen pregnancy and birth rates improves opportunities and outcomes for America's youth, lessens economic costs, and leads to overall health equity. When State and local governments and civic and faith-based organizations sponsor comprehensive, age-appropriate, evidence-based initiatives, they help young men and women understand the gravity of their choices and empower them to steer their futures toward their dreams.

This month and throughout the year, let us remember that we all share a responsibility to stay involved in the lives of our children. It falls to all of us to foster trust and open dialogue, and to remind our Nation's daughters and sons that we believe in them, love them, and want them to make healthy decisions and reach for their greatest aspirations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", with a large circular flourish on the left and a horizontal line extending to the right.